

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2483

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BURSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T ROME 14268

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1

TAGS: PINS, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RUMOR'S VIEWS ON THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT

1. I SPEND 45 MINUTES WITH THE PRIME MINISTER LATE THIS AFTERNOON. IT WAS A VERY PLEASANT AND AMICABLE DISCUSSION. I ASKED HIM HIS JUDGMENT ON THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT MEETING, WHETHER OR NOT IT HAD HELPED TO BRING GREATER EUROPEAN UNITY, AND HOW IT HAD AFFECTED US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS. HE STARTED OFF BY RECALLING THAT HE HAD INDICATED TO ME ON MY LAST VISIT THAT HE WENT TO COPENHAGEN WITH SOME PESSIMISM BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN INSUFFICIENT TIME PROPERLY TO PREPARE AN AGENDA. HIS FEARS HAD BEEN CONFIRMED AND AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY HE WAS COMPLETELY DISCOURAGED, FEELING THAT IF ANYTHING, THE MEETING MIGHT SERVE TO FURTHER DIVIDE EUROPE RATHER THAN TO UNITE IT. IN RUMOR'S VIEW THE SECOND DAY BROUGHT ABOUT QUITE A CHANGE, PARTICULARLY WHEN AT HIS SUGGESTION THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MET

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WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. RUMOR NOTED TO HIS PEERS WHEN HE PROPOSED THE MEETING THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE THE ONES WHO WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ANYTHING THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MIGHT DECIDE.

2. THERE WERE THREE MAIN POINTS THAT OCCUPIED MOST OF THEIR ATTENTION AND TIME. THE ENERGY CRISIS WAS THE DOMINATING THEME RATHER THAN EUROPEAN UNITY. THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF FOUR ARAB NATIONS WERE THERE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS INTELLIGENTLY OTHER MATTERS BECAUSE THE ENERGY CRISIS PERMEATED THE THINKING OF ALL THOSE PRESENT. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ALL BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS AND I WAS UNABLE TO LEARN WHETHER THEY CAME BY INVITATION ON THE PART OF ONE COUNTRY OR MORE OR WHETHER THEY CAME ON THEIR OWN. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD MEET WITH THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS AND ALLOW THEM TO STATE THEIR CASE RESERVING JUDGMENT AS TO ANY REPLY. THERE WAS NO REAL UNANIMITY OF THINKING ON THE ENERGY SITUATION. THE EC BEING DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS: FRANCE AND ENGLAND WERE CONSIDERED FRIENDLY AND PRO-ARAB; HOLLAND WAS CONSIDERED PRO-ISRAEL; AND THE OTHERS SO-CALLED NEUTRALS. AS A RESULT OF THIS THERE WAS NO REALLY FIRM DECISION TAKEN AS TO A COMMON ENERGY POLICY EXCEPT TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE OECD.

3. TURNING TO THE POLITICS OF THE SUMMIT, RUMOR INDICATED THAT HEATH SEEMED VERY PREOCCUPIED DURING THE MEETING AND MADE VERY LITTLE CONTRIBUTION. BRANDT WAS NOT HIS USUAL OUTGOING SELF. POMPIDOU TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO DOMINATE THE PROCEEDINGS. THE SMALL COUNTRIES HAD VERY LITTLE TO SAY, SOME OF THE LEADERS BEING RELATIVELY NEW AND RUMOR FELT THAT MORE PROGRESS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE MORE RAPIDLY HAD THERE BEEN AN EXPERIENCED CHAIRMAN PRESIDING OVER THE MEETING. HOWEVER, ON THE WHOLE HE BELIEVES THAT SOME MINOR PROGRESS WAS MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING MORE UNITY AMONG THE EC COUNTRIES. THIS WAS BETTER THAN MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED BECAUSE OF THE INAUSPICIOUS START. RUMOR WAS FRANK TO SAY IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT HE DETECTED IN TALKING WITH OTHER LEADERS A GROWING DETERIORATION IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC COUNTRIES. HE FELT PARTICULARLY THAT HEATH WAS QUITE COLD SO FAR AS THE US IS CONCERNED WHICH SURPRISED HIM BECAUSE OF THE
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EXTREMELY STRONG TIES BETWEEN THE US AND UK. HE FEELS A RATHER SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE IN BRINGING RELATIONS WHICH FORMERLY EXISTED BACK TO NORMAL. VOLPE

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LONDON

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